NEWS RELEASE

Digital Medical Recording Available in Afghanistan for First Time
Army Units to Utilize more than 500 MC4 Systems in Operation Enduring Freedom

Fort Detrick, Md., **Mar. 17, 2006** – The 14th Combat Support Hospital (CSH) will begin using Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care (MC4) systems this month, marking the first time deployed medical forces in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) will have digital medical recording technology at their fingertips. MC4 will equip the 14th CSH, Forward Surgical Teams (FSTs) and other units in Afghanistan with more than 500 systems, on which they've already been trained to use during their Joint Task Force Hurricane Katrina efforts in 2005.

"The MC4 notebook computer will be a welcome addition to the surgical wards," said Colonel Jeff Haun, Commander of the 14th CSH. "I'm glad the Army Medical Department Center and School and the Information Management/Information Technology (IM/IT) communities have come together to deliver a multitask platform for the efficient documentation of electronic heath records that is more in synch with business process, via the integrated MC4 desktop."

In February, the 14th CSH assumed its predecessors' (249th General Hospital) business practices by continuing to record and share medical information the old fashioned way – on paper.

"This integration of off-the-shelf software and links at the desktop level should reduce the time users spend downloading and installing applications on their own," Haun said. "The 'swivel chair business process' can be reduced because the number of computers needed to 'swivel back and forth' is cut down."

In addition to a comprehensive medical IM/IT system, the 14th CSH gains six MC4 support personnel to train medical personnel and sustain the system as needed.

"The most important product we offer is not our software or hardware – it's our support to the customer," said LTC Edward Clayson, MC4 Product Manager. "MC4's focus in OEF will be to support the 14th CSH's and other units' missions at hand."

In 2005, MC4 fielded more than 6,500 systems into Iraq, Kuwait and Qatar, in addition to enabling the 86th CSH to become the first deployed hospital in the history of U.S. warfare to electronically capture Service members' healthcare treatments in Iraq by using a joint medical software system. Last month, MC4 was recognized for these efforts, earning the following awards:

- 2005 Army Medical Department Mercury IM/IT Team of the Year Award
- 2005 Military Health System, Army Medical Information Systems Information Management Team of the Year Award
- Top 20 Federal IM/IT Program award by the American Council for Technology

- **more** -

ADD ONE – MC4 Used in Afghanistan

Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care (MC4) develops, fields and supports a medical information management system for Army tactical medical forces, enabling a comprehensive, life-long electronic medical record for all service members, and enhancing medical situational awareness for operational commanders. Headquartered at Fort Detrick, Md., MC4 is under the oversight of the Army Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS) at Fort Belvoir, Va.
For more information on MC4, visit www.mc4.army.mil.

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